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Charles Munn, 85, *Maple Grove* speaker of state House *2-1-73* under Floyd Olson, dies

Charles Munn, 85, a plain-spoken farmer who became speaker of the Minnesota House under Gov. Floyd B. Olson, died Wednesday.

Munn was born on the Maple Grove farm he later worked, and served as town constable for 11 years and town clerk for 10 years before being elected to the Minnesota House in 1926.

He presided over the 1933 session that passed a state income tax and created the Minneapolis-St. Paul Sanitary District, as well as a 1933-34 special session.

Munn was the unsuccessful Farmer-Labor nominee for 3rd District congressman in 1942 and lost the 1944 DFL nomination to William Gallagher by 356 votes. Munn then served 15 years as secretary to Gallagher and Congressman Roy Wier.

Although he lived in recent years at 2934 Colfax Av. N., one of Munn's greatest loves was his farm and he lavished attention on it as some men did on golf courses, recalled George Bradley, an old Minnesota newspaperman and good friend. He was "a darn good farmer, too," Bradley said.

Bradley also recalled how he and Munn once lost their way after a night at a Golden Valley tavern and ended up on a road that became a track that ended at a barn.

Their car went into a ditch and they went to the barn to borrow a team of horses to get out. A man with a gun surprised them, and only then did they learn that they had blundered into the property of the Minneapolis Workhouse near Parker's Lake.

"My advice to politicians these days: adjust mentalities to change," Munn said in a 1964 interview. "Some of these guys don't realize that what we need nowadays is mass transit,



Charles Munn in 1938



Mr. Munn in 1964

not better horse trails. A more complicated society means we need more politicians," he added.

In addition to his wife, Munn is survived by five children, Robert, Howard and Gerald, all of Maple Grove; Marian, of Rochester, and Mrs. Kathryn Bechtell, Excelsior.

Funeral services will be at St. Vincent dePaul Church, Osseo, at 10 a.m. Saturday, with burial in the church cemetery. Visitation is from 2 p.m. Friday at Evans-Nordby Mortuary, Osseo.